

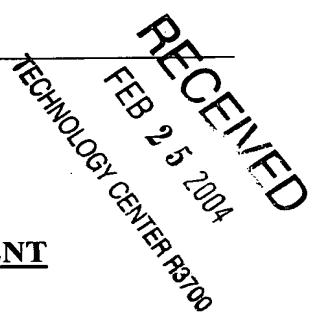
BARNES & THORNBURG

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: 3738
Confirmation No.: 3293
Application No.: 09/767,346
Invention: **Method of Reconstructing a Joint**
Applicant: Plouhar, et al.
Filed: January 23, 2001
Attorney
Docket: 265280-67310
Examiner: Paul Prebilic

} Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)
} I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
} deposited with the United States Postal Service with
} sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope
} addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box
} 1450, Alexandria, VA 22213-1450.
}
} on February 17, 2004
}
} Garla L. Twyman
} (Signature)
} Garla L. Twyman
} (Printed Name)
}
}
}



RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on February 10, 2004, in response to the Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed January 26, 2004, in response to the official action mailed August 1, 2003. Please amend the claims of the above-identified application and consider the remarks set forth below. Applicants requested an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to file the response to the August 1, 2003 official action. However, it is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that any additional fees be charged or any overpayments credited in connection with this amendment

to the account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435, with reference to our matter 265280-67310. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed for that purpose.